

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 26 January 1525 and 6 July 1525 and proved 6 March 1528 of Sir William Waldegrave (c.1465 - 30 June 1527), one of the executors of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford. For the will of the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl, see TNA PROB 11/17/379.

The testator was the great-grandfather of Sir William Waldegrave (c.1540 – 25 August 1613), a co-guarantor, with Oxford's first cousin, John Darcy (d.1581), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Darcy of Chiche, of Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards. In 1572, Sir William Waldegrave and Lord Darcy jointly entered into guarantees amounting to £5000 for Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards (see TNA C 2/Eliz/T6/48).

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

For the testator's family background, see the Waldegrave pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 119 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess1314metc#page/118/mode/2up>

### ***Testator's great-great-great-grandparents***

The testator's great-great-grandparents were Sir Richard Waldegrave (d.1339) and Agnes Daubeney.

From the *ODNB*:

*Waldegrave, Sir Richard (c. 1338–1410), courtier and speaker of the House of Commons, was the son of Sir Richard Waldegrave of Brant Broughton, Lincolnshire, who was knight of the shire for Lincolnshire in 1335, and died late in 1339. A minor at his father's death, the younger Richard Waldegrave eventually succeeded to the Lincolnshire estates and to family lands at Walgrave, Northamptonshire. About 1363 he secured further lands, and entry into Suffolk society, by marrying Joan, widow of Sir Robert Bures, who brought him substantial estates in Suffolk, Essex, and other counties.*

See also the Waldegrave pedigree in Metcalfe, *supra*, p. 119, and Roskell, J.S., 'Sir Richard de Waldegrave of Bures St. Mary, Speaker in the Parliament of 1381-2', *Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, Vol. XXVII, Part 3, 1957, pp. 154-75 at p. 156, available online:

*The son of Sir Richard de Waldegrave of Walgrave (Northants) by his wife Agnes Daubeney, Sir Richard the Speaker was born in or about 1338 . . . .*

### *Testator's great-great-grandparents*

The testator's great-great-grandparents were Sir Richard Waldegrave (c.1338 – 2 May 1410) and his wife, Joan (d. 10 June 1406). Sir Richard Waldegrave's will indicates that his wife, Joan, predeceased him, and that he had only one child, a son, Richard Waldegrave. For the will, see Lambeth Palace Library, Reg. Arundel 2, f. 49, available on microfilm (MS Film 704):

<http://archives.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=V%2fA%2f9Arundel2%2f49>

For a summary of the will, see Roskell, *supra*, p. 175, and Brydges, Egerton, *Collins's Peerage of England*, Vol. IV, (London: F.C. and J. Rivington, 1812), p. 233 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/collinsspeerage07brydgoog#page/n242/mode/2up>

See also Nicolas, Nicholas Harris, *Testamenta Vetusta*, Vol. I, (London: Nichols and Son, 1836), p. 158 at:

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=7\\_wmAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA158](https://books.google.ca/books?id=7_wmAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA158)

See also Weever, John, *Ancient Funeral Monuments*, (London: Thomas Harper, 1631), p. 757 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=sDxQAQAIAAJ&pg=RA2-PA757>

*Here lies Richard Waldegrave, knight, who died the 2 day of May, Anno Domini 1400 [sic for '1410'] & Joan, his wife, who died 10 June 1406, on whose souls God have mercy, Amen.*

Sir Richard Waldegrave had married his wife, Joan, by 1365 as indicated by a fine levied in that year:

*Final concord between Richard de Waldegrave, knight, and Joan his wife, complainants, and John de Sutton, knight, and wife Alice, Wm. Wynkefeld and John Roukewode, deforcians . . . Remainder to Alice, daughter of Robert de Bures, knight, and heirs of her body, then to Andrew de Bures, son of Andrew de Bures, knight, then to Michael de Bures and heirs, then to the right heirs of Alice, daughter of Robert.*

See Dorset History Centre, D/WLC/T296 in the National Archives online catalogue.

Beyond the fact that her Christian name was 'Joan' (or 'Jonette' in the Suffolk Record Office copy of the will, dated 6 July 1361, of her husband, Robert de Bures), the identity of Sir Richard Waldegrave's wife has never been satisfactorily established. According to the pedigree in Metcalfe, *supra*, p. 119, she was 'Joan, daughter to Silvester of Bures', the arms given being *Ermine, on a chevron sable three crosses patonce or*. Moreover a

'Silvester de Bures' mentioned in several documents in the National Archives online catalogue (see, for example, TNA WARD 2/10/34/6, dated 28 February 1322). It should also be noted that there was a Silvesters manor in Bures. See Copinger, W.A., ed., *The Manors of Suffolk*, Vol. 1, (London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1905), pp. 50-1 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/50/mode/2up>

Roskell states that Joan was the daughter and heir of *Robert Silvester of Bures*, as does Richardson, although no authority is cited for the claim. See Roskell, *supra*, pp. 156, 159-60:

*Bures and others of his holdings in that vicinity came to Waldegrave through his marriage with Joan, daughter and heir of Robert Silvester of Bures and widow of Robert de Bures, whom he had married by 1363. . . .*

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 418 (hereafter *PA*) at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA2-PA418>

Others have suggested that Joan was the daughter of Sir Richard de Sutton (d. 7 April 1395). See, for example, Blomfield:

Francis Blomefield, 'Launditch Hundred: Titleshale', in *An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 10* (London, 1809), pp. 60-71. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol10/pp60-71> [accessed 15 December 2017]

*Sir Richard de Sutton married Alianore, and left an only daughter and heir, Joan, who married first Sir Robert de Bures, son and heir of Andrew de Bures, and on his death, remarried Richard de Waldgrave; by Sir Robert she left a daughter and heir, Alice, who married Sir Guy de Bryan . . . .*

Although it is possible that Joan was Sir Richard de Sutton's eventual heir, she could not have been his immediate heir. His inquisition post mortem, TNA C 136/89/13, taken 29 April 1396, states that his heir was his 12-year-old son, Thomas de Sutton. See:

M. C. B. Dawes, H. C. Johnson, M. M. Condon, C. A. Cook and H. E. Jones, 'Inquisitions Post Mortem, Richard II, File 89', in *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, Volume 17, Richard II* (London, 1988), pp. 254-268. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/vol17/pp254-268> [accessed 15 December 2017].

For the suggestion that Joan was the daughter of Sir Richard de Sutton, see also the History of Parliament:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1386-1421/member/waldegrave-sir-richard-1338-1410>

*b.c.1338, s. and h. of Sir Richard Waldegrave<sup>†</sup> (d.c.1339), of Brant Broughton, Lincs. by Agnes Daubeney. m. c.1363, Joan (d. 10 June 1406), prob. da. of Sir Richard Sutton of Navestock, Essex, 1 wid. of Sir Robert Bures (d.1361), of Bures St. Mary, Is. Kntd. by June 1365.*

For Sir Richard Sutton see also Copinger, *supra*, Vol. 1, pp. 158-9 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/158/mode/2up>

*In the time of Richard the Second [Milden] manor had passed to Sir John Sutton (son of Sir John Sutton, son of William), for he presented to the living in 1370 and died seised of both manor and advowson in 1393, when the manor passed to Sir Richard Sutton his brother and heir then 60 years of age. Sir John left a daughter Margery who married John Walton whose heir general Joan Walton married Sir John Howard . . . .*

See also the pedigree in Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513)*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), p. 24.

Roskell, *supra*, p. 156, states that Sir Richard Waldegrave and his wife, Joan, had a daughter, Alice, who married Sir Guy Brian (c.1352-1386):

*Waldegrave's own daughter, Alice, married into the Brian family, being very probably the wife of Sir Guy's son and heir, another Guy, who died, some four years before his father, in 1386.*

In fact, Sir Richard Waldegrave was the *stepfather* of Alice de Bures (c.1360 – 1 November 1435), Joan's daughter by her first marriage to Sir Robert de Bures (1334 – 10 July 1361), son of Sir Andrew de Bures (1301 – 12 April 1360). See the inquisition post mortem, dated 16 April 1360, taken after the death of Sir Andrew de Bures, TNA C 135/150/18, and the *ODNB*:

*Bryene [Brian, Bryan; née Bures], Alice (c. 1360–1435), landowner, was probably born at Acton, near Sudbury, Suffolk, the only child of Sir Robert Bures (d. 1361) and his wife, Joan, née Sutton. Her great-grandfather Sir Robert Bures (d. 1331) was a member of Edward I's household and custodian of Queen Eleanor's castle at Haverford West, and at his death owned property in fifteen East Anglian villages, most of which became Alice's patrimony, including the manor of Acton where she lived for most of her life. Two years after the younger Sir Robert's death, Alice's mother married Sir Richard Waldegrave, a distinguished soldier, courtier, and politician.*

See also Swabey, Ffiona, *Medieval Gentlewoman*, (New York: Routledge, 1999), pp. 30-2 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=bmDYizo9GMEC&pg=PR32>

For Sir Richard Waldegrave, see also:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/52219527@N00/14210240459>

In summary, it appears likely that Sir Richard Waldegrave's wife, Joan, was the daughter of Sir Richard Sutton, and that their only child was a son, Richard Waldegrave (see below).

### *Testator's great-grandparents*

Sir Richard Waldegrave (d. 2 March 1435?) married Joan Munchensy (d. 9 October 1450). See the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, TNA C 139/69/27; *PA*, *supra*, Vol. III, p. 418, and Copinger, *supra*, Vol. 1, pp. 50-1 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/50/mode/2up>

See also Copinger, *supra*, Vol. 1, p. 102 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/102/mode/2up>

According to *PA*, *supra*, p. 418, they had a son and a daughter:

-**Sir William Waldegrave** (died c.1464). However the statement in *PA* that Sir *William* Waldegrave was the only son of Sir Richard Waldegrave (d. 2 March 1435?) is contradicted by the statement in *PA* itself (see below) that Sir Richard Waldegrave (d. 2 March 1435?) was succeeded by his son, Sir *Richard* Waldegrave.

-**Agnes Waldegrave**, who according to the Waldegrave pedigree, *supra*, p. 119, married William Hunt of Hunt's Hall.

### *Testator's grandparents*

Sir Richard Waldegrave (died c.1464) married, before 1418, Joan Doreward (living 1454), the daughter of John Doreward (d.1420) of Bocking, Essex, Speaker of the House of Commons. See the *ODNB* entry for John Doreward; his will, TNA PROB 11/2B/359; *PA*, *supra*, Vol. III, p. 418; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1386-1421/member/doreward-john-1420>

Sir Richard Waldegrave and Joan Doreward had two sons:

-**Sir Thomas Waldegrave** (d. 28 April 1472), the testator's father (see below).

-**Richard Waldegrave** (d.1453).

### *Testator's parents*

The testator was the son of Sir Thomas Waldegrave (d. 28 April 1472) of Smallbridge by Elizabeth Fray (b.1441), daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Fray (d.1461), Chief Baron of the Exchequer, by Agnes Danvers (d.1478), daughter of Sir John Danvers. But see a Chancery suit dating from 1493-1500, TNA C 1/234/23, ('William Waldegrave, son of Elizabeth, daughter of *Richard Fray*'). See also the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Sir Thomas Waldegrave, TNA C 140/40/4; *PA, supra*, Vol. III, pp. 418-19 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA2-PA418>

For Elizabeth Fray's mother, Agnes (nee Danvers) Baldington Fray Wenlock Say (d.1478), see *PA, supra*, Vol. III, pp. 307-8, and 'Testament of a city-dwelling knight's widow' at:

<http://users.trytel.com/~tristan/towns/florilegium/lifecycle/lcdth18.html>

For Elizabeth Fray's sister, Katherine Fray (born c.1447), and her husband, Humphrey Stafford (executed 8 July 1486), esquire, of Grafton, Worcestershire, see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 119 (hereafter *MCA*). Humphrey Stafford's daughter, Anne Stafford, married Richard Neville (c.1467-1530), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Latimer, by whom she was the mother of John Neville (17 November 1493 – 2 March 1543), 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Latimer, who married Dorothy de Vere (d. 7 February 1527), daughter of Sir George Vere (d.1503?) and Margaret Stafford, and sister and co-heir of John de Vere (14 August 1499 - 14 July 1526), 14th Earl of Oxford. See the will of Sir George Vere, TNA PROB 11/13/444, the will of John Neville, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Latimer, TNA PROB 11/29/303, and *MCA, supra*, Vol. III, p. 3.

For Elizabeth Fray's family, see also Macnamara, F.N., *Memorials of the Danvers Family*, (London: Hardy & Page, 1895), pp. 150-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=rdYKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA151>

After the death of Sir Thomas Waldegrave, his widow, Elizabeth Fray, married, shortly after 18 April 1480, as his second wife, Sir William Say (1452 – 4 December 1529), eldest son and heir of Sir John Say (d. 12 April 1478). See the will of Sir John Say, TNA PROB 11/6/459, and *MCA, supra*, Vol. IV, pp. 129-30. For Sir William Say, by whom Elizabeth Fray Waldegrave had two daughters, Elizabeth Say, married to William Blount (c.1478–1534), 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Mountjoy, and Mary Say, married to Henry Bouchier (1472–1540), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex, see his will, TNA PROB 11/24/102, the *ODNB* entries

for William Blount, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Mountjoy, and Henry Bouchier, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex, and Nichols, Francis Morgan, *The Hall of Lawford Hall: Records of an Essex House and its Proprietors*, (London, 1891), pp. 164-84 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Sy8QAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA178>

The testator had two brothers and four sisters:

**-Edward Waldegrave.**

**-Richard Waldegrave.**

**-Anne Waldegrave**, who married a husband surnamed Fabian.

**-Jane Waldegrave**, who married Sir Edmund Arundell, but died without issue. See Vivian, J.L., ed., *The Visitations of Cornwall*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1887), p. 3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=t0U7AQAIAAJ&pg=PA3>

**-Katherine Waldegrave**, who about 1494 married George Mannock (died c.1540) of Gifford's Hall, Suffolk. See Emery, Anthony, *Greater Medieval Houses of England and Wales 1300-1500*, Vol. II, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), p. 105 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=FRw9AAAIAAJ&pg=PA105>

**-Elizabeth Waldegrave**, a nun.

## ***MARRIAGE***

The testator married, by settlement dated 1474/5, Margery Wentworth, for whom see her will, TNA PROB 11/28/96. See also TNA E 210/1564, 'Agreement made between Dame Elizabeth Waldegrave, late the wife of Thomas Waldegrave, knight, and Henry Wentworth, esquire, in consideration of the marriage of William Waldegrave, son of the said Thomas and Elizabeth, with Margery, daughter of the said Henry, for the settlement of lands of the yearly value of £40 by Dame Joan Waldegrave, grandmother of the said William'.

## ***CHILDREN***

In the will below, the testator names three sons, George, William and Anthony, two married daughters, Bridget and Dorothy, an unmarried daughter, Elizabeth, and a daughter, Jane. His daughter, Margaret, who married Sir John St John of Bletsoe, appears to have predeceased him. For further details of the testator's children, see the will of his wife, Margery Wentworth Waldegrave, TNA PROB 11/28/96.

**TESTATOR'S MANORS**

For the testator's manors of Smallbridge, Overhall alias Ropers, Netherhall or Silvesters, and Tany's, see Copinger, *supra*, Vol. 1, pp. 50-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/50/mode/2up>

For the testator's manor of Wormingford, see:

'Wormingford: Manors and other estates', in *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 10, Lexden Hundred (Part) Including Dedham, Earls Colne and Wivenhoe*, ed. Janet Cooper (London, 2001), pp. 299-301. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol10/pp299-301> [accessed 11 December 2017].

*By 1383 the manor was held by Richard Waldegrave. (fn. 8) He or his heir of the same name held it in 1420, and then it passed to his son Richard (fn. 9) (d. 1435), and to Richard's son Richard (fl. 1455). (fn. 10) In 1480 Elizabeth, widow of Sir Thomas Waldegrave, held the manor with her second husband William Say. (fn. 11) They were followed by William Waldegrave (d. 1526), grandson of Richard, William's son George (d. 1528), and by George's son William (d. 1553). From William's son, Sir William (d. by 1584), it passed to his son William (d. 1610), William's son William (d. 1612), whose widow Jemima held in dower in 1635. Their son William Waldegrave (d. by 1650) succeeded, then his son Thomas Waldegrave.*

See also 'The Waldegrave Connection with Wormingford Hall and Church Manor' at:

<http://www.bures-online.co.uk/smallbridge/Wormingford.htm>

For the testator's manor of Twywell, see:

'Parishes: Twywell', in *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1930), pp. 248-252. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/northants/vol3/pp248-252> [accessed 11 December 2017].

*In Domesday Book, the Abbey of Peterborough held no land in Twywell, but probably one virgate of its holding in Slipton lay in Twywell, (fn. 29) and in the 12th century survey of the county one great virgate in Twywell is assigned to Peterborough. (fn. 30) Its subsequent history is lost until the close of the 14th century, when it may possibly reappear as a manor of TWYWELL held before 1384 by Sir Richard Waldegrave, knt. (fn. 31) He or a later Richard made a settlement of the manor in 1437, (fn. 32) and two years later his trustees granted it to his son Richard and his wife Alice and their heirs. (fn. 33) The younger Richard died in 1453, (fn. 34) but Alice held the manor until her death in 1473, when it passed to Richard's nephew William. (fn. 35) The latter died in 1528, (fn. 36) but his son and heir George only survived him a few months, and the manor passed to*



*his grandson William, (fn. 37) who dealt with it in 1532. (fn. 38) No further mention of the manor apparently occurs.*

For the testator's manor of Wherstead, see Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk*, Vol. 6, (Manchester: Taylor, Garnett, Evans & Co. Ltd., 1910), p. 120 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn06copiuoft#page/120/mode/2up>

For the testator's manor of Raydon, see Copinger, *supra*, Vol. 6, p. 73 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn06copiuoft#page/72/mode/2up>

For the testator's manor of Monks Illeigh, see Copinger, *supra*, Vol. 1, p. 162 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/162/mode/2up>

For the testator's manors of Polstead and Levenhey, see Copinger, *supra*, Vol. 1, pp. 180-1 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/180/mode/2up>

For the testator's manor of Blindknights, see:

'Houses of Austin canons: Priory of St Botolph, Colchester', in *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 2*, ed. William Page and J Horace Round (London, 1907), pp. 148-150. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol2/pp148-150> [accessed 12 December 2017].

For the testator's properties of 'Sullers and Martyns in Raydon', see a release dated 11 January 1398, Suffolk Record Office HD 1538/330/4, by which Roger de Wolferston released these properties to William Sampson (d.1439) and his wife, Margaret Bures Sampson, daughter of Andrew de Bures (d.1397), younger brother of Sir Robert de Bures (1334 – 10 July 1361), and son of Sir Andrew de Bures (1301 – 12 April 1360) mentioned above:

*2 tenements called Martyns and Sulnys in Reydon [Raydon], which [Roger Wolferston] had by gift of John Sutton, kt and wife Alice, by fine levied in respect thereof; to hold to [William Sampson] and heirs male of body of Margaret, of chief lords of fee for accustomed services. If Margaret die without such issue, remainder (after deaths of [William Sampson and Margaret, his wife]) to Margaret's brother Andrew de Burys; if Andrew die without such issue, remainder to Dame Alice Bryen of Aketon [Acton].*

See also Copinger, *supra*, Vol. 6, p. 77 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924092579592#page/n85/mode/2up>

## ***OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL***

### ***Henry Bures***

For Henry Bures (d. 6 July 1528), ‘son and heir apparent of Robert Bures’, see also Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk*, Vol. 1, (London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1905), pp. 6-8, 13, 174, 242 and 317 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn01copiuoft#page/6/mode/2up>

### ***Thomas Butler, Earl of Ormond***

Thomas Butler (d. 3 August 1515), 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ormond, referred to in the will below, was eventual heir to his elder brother James Butler (c.1422 – 1 May 1461), 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ormond and 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Wiltshire, who married Avice Stafford (c.1431- 3 June or July 1457), daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Stafford (died c.1427) by Maud Lovell (d. 19 May 1436), daughter and heiress of Robert Lovel, esquire. Thomas Butler, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ormond, died without male issue.

It would appear that the testator came by several of his estates through his connection to Alice Bures Bryan (see above), whose daughter, Elizabeth Bryan (c.1380-2 – c. 8 July 1437), married, before 1 December 1397, Robert Lovel, by whom she was the mother of Maud Lovel, who by Sir Richard Stafford was the mother of Avice Stafford, wife of James Butler, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ormond. See *PA, supra*, Vol. I, pp. 453-6, and Vol. II, pp. 446-7, and the *ODNB* entry for James Butler, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Wiltshire, and Banks, *supra*, p. 139 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=NvQ7AAAAMAAJ&pg=PA139>

See also O’Brien, Niall C.E.J., ‘English estates of the Earl of Ormond in 1463’.

<http://celtic2realms-medievalnews.blogspot.ca/2016/07/english-estates-of-earl-of-ormond-in.html>

*[Torbryan] came to James Butler (Earl of Wiltshire to be) in 1445 from the inheritance of his wife Avice Stafford. When Avice’s step brother died in 1438 Avice inherited from her mother six manors in Devon including an island, nine in Dorset, two in Essex, two in Gloucestershire, four in Kent, six in Suffolk, six in Somerset, other holdings in Suffolk and Somerset and Walwyns Castle in Pembrokeshire. Initially Walwyns castle was not settled on James Butler but after the death of Avice in 1457 it was taken by the Butler family . . . .*

*On 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1461 the new king granted to Thomas Walgrave a number of properties formerly held by James Butler, Earl of Wiltshire, in Suffolk and Essex. These*

*properties included Merkis in Raydon Hall, Moresfor in Waldingfeld, and Overhall and Silvestres Hall (both in Bures) in Suffolk along with Foxherd Hall, Liston and Weston in Essex. On 30<sup>th</sup> March 1465 Thomas Walgrave and others along with the sheriffs of Suffolk and Essex and other counties were commissioned to examine all the properties formerly owned by James Butler in those counties and all the associated rights such as advowsons, rents and fees.[39]*

RM: Test{amentu}m Will{el}mi Walgrau Milit{is}

In Dei nomine Amen. The 26<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred twenty and four and in the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup>, I, William Waldegrave of Smallbridge in the county of Suffolk, knight, being of whole mind, good memory and perfect remembrance, and verily knowing that there is nothing more sure or more certain to every creature in this wretched world living than death, which every creature living inevitably must suffer, and nothing more unsure and uncertain than the dreadful hour thereof, fully disposing and purposing myself by the mercy of God to be at all and every time and hour ready, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I annual and revoke all other my testaments ever afore this day made or declared, and will that every of them shall be of no strength nor effect;

And I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Maker, to Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the saints in heaven, my body to be buried in the parish church of Saint Mary, Bures, within the tomb which I there did do make under the arch between the high altar and the chapel of Jesus, which my said burials I will shall be done within the space of 24 hours next after my decease;

And I will that immediately after my decease mine executors do cause to be said or sung three hundred Masses and as many dirges for my soul, and that to be done within 9 or 10 days next after my decease if it may reasonably be, and every priest having for every Mass with the dirge 4d, be he secular or regular, whereof I will the friars of Sudbury have for 30 masses 10s, and for an obit other 10s, and to Doctor Julles, their prior, 6s 8d to have my soul in his remembrance;

Item, to the friars of Clare for 30 Masses 10s, and to Doctor Stokes 6s 8d, to have my soul in his remembrance;

Item, to the Grey Friars of Colchester for 30 Masses 10s;

Item, to Cross [=Crutched] Friars of Colchester for 30 Masses 10s;

Item, to each house of friars in Ipswich, Babwell and Chelmsford, for each house 30 Masses, to have each house 10s;

Item, I will that the nuns of the Minories in London have 20s for one obit to be sung or said for my soul;

And I bequeath to my daughter, Dame Jane Waldegrave, 20s to pray for my soul;

Item, I bequeath to the vicar of Bures in recompense for tithes forgotten 6s 8d;

Item, I will that [+of?] mine apparel of black velvet be made a cope and a vestment with two tunicles to be given to Bures church;

Item, I give to th' use of Bures church mine antifeuer(?) which I bought and was my Lord of Oxenford[‘s];

Item, I will and specially require mine executors above all things that my debts known and proved be truly content and paid, and if I have wronged any man, that truly proved, I will it be satisfied;

And furtherly I will that Margery, my wife, have all her whole apparel with all jewels to her body belonging, and also she to have half of all my jewels, coin, plate, bedding, implements and stuff of household, corn and cattle, excepted that by this my testament I have otherwise willed or bequeathed, which all my jewels, plate, bedding, implements and stuff of household, corn and cattle I would should be egally and truly valued to the best, and my wife to have her choice thereof rately for her part except the altar and images of alabaster and the coarsest altar cloths in the chapel and other standards of household necessary, as great tables in the hall and parlour, great andirons, part of bedstedles [=bedsteads?], brining vessels and other, which I would should be left still with my manor-place of Smallbridge to th' use of mine heirs, as by my wife and executors it shall best seem;

Item, I will that after my wife's choice had of my abovesaid jewels, plate, bedding, implements and stuff of household, corn and cattle, except before excepted, that then the other half of all my said jewels, coin, plate, bedding, implements, stuff of household, corn and cattle, except above excepted, be rately divided between my three sons, George, William and Anthony, and first my son, George, to have his choice of the one half of those parts for his part, and my said sons, William and Anthony, equally between them to have the other half thereof left rately for their part;

Item, after my wife's choice of my plate to her bequeathed had, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Lady Marney, my best standing cup with the cover;

Item, to my daughter [=daughter-in-law] Anne, George Waldegrave's wife, a gilt cup with a cover [f. 227v] or 100s;

Item, to my son [=son-in-law], John Spring, and daughter, Dorothy Spring, in like manner a gilt cup with a cover or 100s;

Item, to my son Saint John a gilt cup with a cover or in like manner 100s;

Item, to my daughter [=daughter-in-law?], Elizabeth Waldegrave, a gilt cup or else £4;

Item, to my nephew, Parson Fabian, a book in Latin called *Liber Sentenciarum*;

Item, I will that for my servants a household be kept at Smallbridge one quarter of a year next after my decease to th' intent they may in that time provide themselves other masters, and every servant, man or woman, beside their duty to have at his or their departing a full quarter wages;

Provided always that where I have above bequeathed my foresaid jewels, coin, plate, bedding, implements and stuff of household, corn and cattle, except before excepted, to my said wife and my said 3 sons, George, William and Anthony, amongst them to be divided in form above specified, my very will, mind, intent and true meaning is that the same bequest thereof to them made be none otherwise taken or understood but only of the overplus of all my said jewels, coin, plate, bedding, implements and stuff of household, corn and cattle that shall be thereof clearly left and spared after my funeral expenses, debts, restitutions, legacies, charge of keeping of my household, wages, and rewards to my servants and all other costs, charges and expenses whatsoever they be that are to be borne and sustained by mine executors for whatsoever cause or causes concerning th' execution of my said testament, last will or ministration of my goods to be thereof wholly and clearly borne, paid, discharged, deducted and allowed;

And that if in case that after the time of division and partition of the said overplus of jewels, coin, plate and other my moveable goods before expressed between my said wife and 3 sons in form aforesaid had and made, and every of them being possessed of her or his particular part and portion thereof, there shall chance, happen or grow to my said executors or any of them any manner of further costs, charges or dangers(?), whatsoever they be, only by occasion of the executorship of my said testament which was not considered, deducted and allowed at the time of the said division and partition of the said goods had and made, that then my said wife and 3 sons shall nevertheless bear, pay, acquit, discharge and set clear from time to time all such costs, charges and dangers as so shall chance or grow unto my said executors or any of them out of their parts of my said moveable goods after such indifferent rate and portion as every of them shall have for her or his part of the same goods, that is to say, my said wife always to bear the one half of all such charges, and my said 3 sons rately amongst them to bear the other half, anything to the contrary thereof before made or devised in any wise notwithstanding;

Item, I will that my son, George Waldegrave, have all my tilth and corns growing on the ground at Smallbridge at the time of my departing out of this transitory world, with ploughs, carts and all necessaries that serveth for my husbandry;

And of this my testament and last will I make my executors Margery, my wife, my son, George Waldegrave, and my son, William Waldegrave;

And whereas I was one of the executors to the noble Earl of Oxenford, I make declaration that none of his goods, jewels nor money do rest in my hands other than I have paid for;

These being witnesses: John Fabian, esquire, Sir William Grene, priest, William Sydey, priest, and other.

LM: Test{amentum} Will{el}mi Waldegrave, milit{is}

In dei nomine Amen. This is the last will of me, William Waldegrave of Smallbridge in the county of Suffolk, knight, in good and whole mind being, made and written the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of Our Lord a thousand five hundred twenty and five and in the 17<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> of all my manors, lands and tenements with their appurtenances which I have or any other men haven to mine use in the counties of Suffolk, Essex and Northampton:

First I will that Margery, my wife, immediately after my decease have and hold for term of her life my manor of Edwardstone which is her jointure by covenants of marriage;

Also my manors of Polstead and Levenhey [=Leavenheath?] with all their appurtenances with all my purchased lands in Edwardstone, Newton and Oxford in the county of Suffolk in full contentation of her jointure and dower;

And after her decease to remain to my son, George Waldegrave, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, except the manor of Edwardstone to be in jointure to my daughter [=grandson's wife?], Julian, daughter to Sir John Rainsford, knight, for term of her life according to the indentures of and for her marriage;

And will and charge my said son, George, to be good to my wife, his mother, and if he or any of his heirs trouble, vex or cause to be troubled or vexed in or for any part of her jointure before-named or by my will given for term of life, then I will my wife have my manor of Wormingford with th' appurtenances in the county of Essex with all my purchased lands in the same town;

And then also she to have my manors of Overhall, Netherhall and Ropers with th' appurtenances in Bures in the county of Suffolk with all my purchased lands in the same town over and besides her jointure for term of her life;

And if my said son, George, and his heirs after him be, as I verily think they would be, good and loving to my said wife, his mother, without troubling for her jointure or other lands by will to her given, then after my decease I will my said son, George, have as well my abovesaid manor of Wormingford with th' appurtenances and purchased land there, as my said manors, lands and tenements of Overhall, Netherhall and Ropers with their

appurtenances and purchased lands in Bures in the counties of Suffolk and Essex, to him and to his heirs of his body lawfully [f. 228r] begotten;

Furtherly, immediately after my decease I will that my son, George, have to him and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten my manors of Smallbridge and Taynes [=Tanys?] with their appurtenances;

And also my manor of Lylsey [=Lindsey?] with th' appurtenances in the county of Suffolk with all my purchased lands in Monks Eleigh;

And that my daughter [=daughter-in-law], Anne Waldegrave, have my said manor of Lylsey for term of her life according to the covenants of her marriage between my brother, Sir Robert Drury, and me made, and also she to have my purchased lands in Monks Eleigh for term of her life;

And also I will that my said son, George, have to him and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten my manors of Waldegrave, Twywell and Slipton in the county of Northampton;

Also I will that William Waldegrave, son of my son, George, have to him and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten my manors of Waldegrave, Twywell and Slipton in the county of Northampton;

Also I will that William Waldegrave, son of my son, George Waldegrave, and Julian, his wife, have my manors of Wenden according to such covenants as be comprised in the indentures made between me and my son, George Waldegrave, on the one party, and John Strangman and Thomas Audley on thother party, paying the annuities to my father [=stepfather], Sir William Say, knight, to my brother, Richard Waldegrave, and to my daughter, Dame Jane Waldegrave, nun in the Minories in London;

Furtherly where Thomas, late Earl of Ormond, by his last will amongst other willed and declared that after his decease all his feoffees of and in all his manors, lands and tenements which sometime were Sir Andrew de Bures by their deed sufficient in the law should deliver and make a state [=estate] of all the same manors, lands and tenements unto the son and heir apparent of Robert de Bures, the father, and to the heirs of the body of the same son and heir apparent lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to the right heirs of the said Sir Andrew de Bures, as in the same last will plainly is declared, whereupon the feoffees of the said late Earl of Ormond of and in the manor of Raydon and Wherstead with their appurtenances in the county of Suffolk, which manors were sometime the said Sir Andrew de Bures, have made a state of the same manors with th' appurtenances to Henry Bures, son and heir apparent of the foresaid Robert Bures, and to the heirs of the body of the same Henry lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue to the right heirs of the said Sir Andrew de Bures according to the tenor and effect of the said Earl's last will;

And where also as [=whereas also] the said Robert de Bures, father to the said Henry Bures, as cousin and next heir to the foresaid Sir Andrew de Bures, by his writing indented hath bargained and sold unto me, the forenamed Sir William Waldegrave, mine heirs and mine assigns forever all such remainder [=remainder], recovers [=recoveries], right, title, interest, use and possession as the same Robert had or at any time might have of and in all the said manors of Raydon and Wherstead with their commodities and appurtenances, as by indentures between us thereupon made more at large doth appear;

I, the said Sir William Waldegrave, will that George Waldegrave, my son and heir apparent, have to him and to his heirs forever all such bargain, possibility, remainers, recovers, right, title, interest, use and possession as I by virtue of the foresaid bargain and sale now have or at any time hereafter should or may have of and in the said manors of Raydon and Wherstead with their appurtenances in the county of Suffolk;

Also whereas I late bought and purchased of Robert Bures, the father, certain lands and tenements with their appurtenances called Sullers and Martyns lying in Raydon and Shelley or elsewhere in the county of Suffolk, I will that after 10 years expired after the death of Robert Bures, the father, and the profits thereof by me or mine assigns received, that then Henry Bures have the said Sullers and Martyns to him and to the heirs of his body;

And if it fortune me to die before the said ten years be expired, then I will that William Waldegrave, my son, have and receive to his own use the profits of the same to [=until] the full of the abovesaid 10 years be expired;

Also whereas I bought of Sir Thomas Tey, knight, an annual rent of £4 13s 4d paid out of the manor of Blindknights in Layer de la Haye and out of the Priory of Saint Botolph's in Colchester, I will and give the said rent of £4 13s 4d by year to George Waldegrave and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and that from henceforward the said rent be as parcel belonging to my said manor of Smallbridge in the county of Suffolk;

Furtherly, as to my housing and tenements in Colchester, I will they be sold and the money of and for them coming to be disposed by mine executors in paying my debts and doing deeds of charity;

And I make mine executors Margery, my wife, my son, George, and my son, William;

And I revoke and annul all other wills by me made before this day except it be for my chantry in Bures and other chantries;

In witness whereof I have written the first draft of this my last will with mine own hand, these being witness: John Fabian, esquire, Sir William Grene, priest, William Sidey & other.



Probatum fuit testamentum supracripti defuncti Coram prefat{is} Com{m}issarijs in eccl{es}ia Cath{edrali} diui Pauli London vjo die mensis Marcij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo vicesimo septimo Iurament{o} executorum in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{orum} In p{er}sona Ric{hard}i ffelde procuratoris in hac p{ar}te Ac approbat{um} et insinuat{um} Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istracio auct{orit}e prefator{um} R{euerendissi}mor{um} patrum o{mn}i{u}m & singulorum bonorum Iuriu{m} & creditorum d{i}c{t}i defuncti prefat{is} executorib{us} In persona d{i}c{t}i procu{rato}ris De bene & fidel{ite}r admi{n}strand{o} Ac de pleno & fideli In{uenta}rio secundo die post festum Annu{n}ciac{ionis} Dmce(?) prox{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita iuris forma Iurat{i}

[=The testament of the above-written deceased was proved before the forenamed Commissioners in the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul in London on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the month of March in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred twenty-seventh by the oath of the executors named in the same testament in the person of Richard Field, proctor in that behalf, and probated and entered, and administration was granted by authority of the forenamed Most Reverend Fathers of all & singular the goods, rights & credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors in the person of the said proctor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of the Annunciation Dmce(?) next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]